

Orders conceiued by the Lords of his Maiesties

Prinie Counsell, and by his Highnesse speciall direction, commanded to be put in execution for the restraint of killing, and eating of Flesh this next Lent, and to be executed aswell by the Lord Maior within the Citie and Suburbs of London, and by the Officers of the Liberties and exempt places in and about the same, as by order to be prescribed by the Lords Lieutenants of all the Counties of the Realme, to the Iustices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and Officers of Corporate Townes.

February xij. in the seuenth yeere of his Maiesties Reigne of great Britaine, France and Ireland.



The Kings most Excellent Maiestie vnderstanding of the great disorders heretofore, and especially the last Lent, committed in killing and eating Flesh in the time of Lent, chiefly in the Citie of London, and the Liberties thereunto adioyning, straitly chargeth and commandeth, That these Orders following, be obserued and put in execution.

First, there shall bee onely eight Butchers licenced by the Lord Maior within the City of London, Viz. Foure in Eastcheape, and foure in S. Nicholas Shambles, who shall be of the poozer sort, and shall not pay any thing for their Licences, nor ioyn with them any partners.

That euery of the said Butchers so to be licenced within the said Citie, and Liberties thereof, doe vtter and sell in their open Shops, in such sort as in open time they are accustomed to doe, and at such Rates and prices as shall be set downe by Order of the Lord Maior of London for that Citie, and the Liberties thereof: and besides euery Butcher shall keepe a perfect booke what quantitie of Flesh they kill euery day, and of what kindes, and to what persons they vtter the same, and the said Butchers to certifie the Lord Maior, to the end the Lords of his Maiesties priue Counsell may be informed by him, how the Lawes and Statutes in this behalfe made, are obserued within the said Citie and Liberties thereof.

That there be licenced to kill and vtter Flesh in the Suburbs of the said Citie, as in the Counties of Middlesex and Surrey neere vnto London, onely eight Butchers, and these to be licenced by the Lord Maior within the seuerall Limits, whereof two to be of the Quorum, that is, two without Smith-Barre in the Parish of S. Sepulchres, or Clarketonwell, or one of them, one in Whittecroffe Lane, one in Roston Folgate, one in White Chappell, one in S. Katherine, two in Southwarke: and for the Citie of Westminster and the Liberties thereof, as also for the Liberties of the Duchie of Lancaster, five Butchers, that is, two without Temple Barre in the Parish of S. Clement Danes and the Liberties of the said Duchie, and three in the Citie of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof, to be licenced by the chiefe Officers of those Liberties, & those to be (as is before expressed) of the poozer sort inhabiting in those places, and to be licenced without any money, or other consideration to be giuen for the same, and to be bound to obserue the like Orders in euery respect, as those that are to be appointed for London, and that the Clerke of the Market, Officer and Justice, there to see them, and let the prices of the Victuall to be vttered in those places.

That no person be permitted to kill or sell any Flesh but to those that are licenced, nor in any other place then before is specified, vpon paine to forfeit the Flesh to be giuen to the pooze in the prisons, and to suffer imprisonment.

That the Constables, Churchwardens, and other publique Officers bee authorized in London, and the Liberties thereof, by the Lord Maior, and the Iustices in the Counties of Middlesex and Surrey, and the forenamed Officers in Westminster, to make search, and to see that the licenced Butchers, nor any other doe kill or vtter any Flesh, nor doe any thing contrary to these Orders.

And for the better knowledge of the trueth of disorders in this kinde, and redresse of the inconueniences, the Lord Maior of London, and euery other Officer here appointed, shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cookes, Tanerners, and keepers of Victuall Tables, and such other that vtter Victualls, to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath beene during the Lent season, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses, and if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their Oathes to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Maior himselfe shall graunt no Warrant for buying of flesh in Lent, but to such as shall shew to him Licence in Writing, according to the Lawes of the Realme to eat flesh, the same Licence to be viewed, and Registered, and Bookes to be kept thereof, to be shewed when the same shall be required, vnlesse it be to Embassadors, and Agents of foraine Princes.

That the Lord Maior shall now presently before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inkeepers of Ordinary Tables, Victuallers, Alehouse keepers, and Tavernors within the City and Liberties thereof to appeare before him, or such persons as hee shall appoint meete for that purpose, and shall take Bonds with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money, one hundred pound the principall, & the Sureties thirtie pound apeece to his Maiesties vse, not to sell any flesh in their houses this Lent time for any respect, nor suffer it to be eaten, except it be for such person that lyeth in their house, that also hath licence through sicknesse, or other necessary use to eat flesh. Also like bonds shall be taken of the Poulters, not to vtter any Poultry Ware, but such as shall be likewise licenced to eat flesh, and that such as will not giue such Bonds, that they be excluded from all vtterance of Victualls during the Lent season, excepting those Poulters that doe ordinarily serue his Maiesties Household, of whom like Bonds shall be taken by his Maiesties Officers of the Greencloth: the like bonds with Sureties shall be taken of the like persons vpon like persons by the chiefe Officer of Westminster, and the liberties thereof.

And for the Butchers and other that come with Victualls of flesh out of the Countrey to the Citie, the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Suburbs where flesh may be brought in, to view and searce, and to intercept the same. The Carriers of the said Victualls of flesh if any shall be taken, to be guided to the persons houses that haue licence, and this watch to be continued dayly during the whole time of Lent: And if any of those Watchmen be found negligent and corrupt in his charge, then he to be committed to prison, there to continue during the whole Lent. And in case the same shall be found to be brought to any person not warranted, to eat it as is aforesayd, then the same to be forfeited and sold at the direction of the Lord Maior for the vse of the poore in the hospitalls and prisons in the Citie, and the bringers to be imprisoned.

And for that it is to be doubted that the Fishmongers, vpon the obseruation of the said Orders, will occasion thereby to inhance the prices as well of fresh as of Sea fish, it is thought meete that the Lord Maior shall take order with the sayd Fishmongers, that as well the salt as fresh fish shall be sold at reasonable prices.

That euery of the Butchers to be licenced as aforesayd, be bound in a sufficient Bond with good Sureties to his Maiesties vse, to obserue these orders in euery respect, and these bonds to be taken by the Lord Maior, and other the Officers aforesayd.

And as those orders are expressly deuised to be executed in the Citie of London, and places neere to the same: so his Maiesties pleasure and commandement is, that the execution of these or like Orders be performed by the Commandement of his Maiesties Lieutenants to be sent to the Justices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and to all other Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties, with like order for the Bonds to be taken to his Maiesties vse.

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